

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 /089 W

-----100430 191342Z /46

R 181327Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 6147

INFO AMEMBSSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, MZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO MOZAMBIQUE

1. DURING SECOND DAY OF HIS VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD PAID COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, MET WITH MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT MARCELINO DOS SANTOS (NUMBER TWO IN THE GOVERNMENT AND CONTINUED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MOZAMBIKAN FOREIGN MINISTER JOAQUIM CHISSANO. FRENCH DELEGATION ALSO HELD EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH A MOZAMBIKAN DELEGATION LED BY CHISSANO AND JACINTO VELOSO (A MEMBER OF FRELIMO'S PERMANENT POLITICAL COMMITTEE) TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON POLITICAL AND CULTURAL SUBJECTS AND TO ESTABLISH AREAS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. PRESS SPECULATED THAT TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT LEAD TO SIGNING OF ANY AGREEMENTS.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FOREIGN

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MINISTER GUIRINGAUD (AT WHICH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PRESENT), PRESIDENT MACHEL THANKED THE FRENCH FOR RECOGNIZING THAT THEIR POLICY TOWARD MOZAMBIQUE AND FRELIMO HAD BEEN WRONG FOR MANY YEARS. MACHEL SAID THAT FRELIMO HAD WAGED A LONG WAR AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM BUT THAT THROUGHOUT THAT STRUGGLE, FRANCE, LIKE MOST WESTERN NATIONS, HAD SUPPORTED PORTUGAL. THE FRENCH TOOK THE POSITION THAT FRELIMO'S

STRUGGLE IN MOZAMBIQUE WAS AN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE PROBLEM.
THIS, MACHEL ASSERTED, WAS AN ERROR.

3. ON ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, PRESIDENT MACHEL SAID THAT FRANCE AND THE WEST HAVE NOT ADOPTED A CLEAR POSITION. AND ON SOUTH AFRICA, MACHEL DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT IN PRETORIA AS A NAZI REGIME AND ACCUSED FRANCE AND THE WEST OF SUPPORTING IT. "THE WEST," HE SAID, "SUPPORTS THE MINORITY AND NOT THE MAJORITY." GUIRINGUAD TOLD NEWSMEN THAT IT WAS FRANCE'S POLICY TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ALL AFRICAN STATES REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL PERSUASION.

4. PRESS AUGUST 18 ALSO REPORTED THAT GUIRINGUAD MET WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER ROBERT MUGABE AND REAFFIRMED FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN TO SOLVE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. NO OTHER DETAILS OF THE MEETING ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

5. COMMENT: FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US THAT GUIRINGAUD'S CONVERSATIONS WITH MOZAMBIKAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN "FRIENDLY BUT VERY FRANK", WITH BOTH SIDES SPEAKING OPENLY AND FREELY. AFTER GUIRINGUAD'S DEPARTURE TODAY FOR DAR ES SALAAM WE WILL CONTACT OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUES TO GET A READOUT ON GIRINGUAD'S VISIT.
DE PREE

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